



Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Newsletter

March - April 2016



Flu Vaccine



**It's not too late to vaccinate
against influenza**

Due to delays in production the Influenza vaccine will not be available for at least another week or two.

Late supply has been compounded by mechanical problems with our vaccine fridge, consequently we will not be able to place an order for flu vaccines until possibly the end of April 2016.

However, this is not too late to have your flu vaccine and as soon as we have supply the Community shall be notified either by: SMS, phone, letter and or in the newsletter.

So please watch this space: AND REMEMBER- IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO VACCINATE AGAINST THE FLU

Call the Aboriginal Health Service on 6332 3800 or free call 1800 132 260 for information or availability

Mail Outs

Due to the recent changes with the Australia post delivery delays and the high postage costs that have recently risen again, we will be slowly rolling out an email system for our newsletters and flyers to lower the costs and time consuming efforts it can take. We will have some notices around but please see reception if you would like to be changed over from mail to email

Doctors appointments

If you cannot make your doctors appointments PLEASE call and let us know so we can cancel them. There are always community members waiting for appointments. At the moment we only have Dr Nones as our GP Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. We can get booked out easily, so we encourage you to call on the day for appointments at 8.45 if we do not have any sooner appointments when you contact us.

AHS: 6332 3800

Free call: 1800 132 260

Medical Students Visit – Students report

As a part of our curriculum, UTAS placed four second-year medical students at the Launceston based Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for a week (03/04/16 - 08/04/16). During this time, we were to follow health professionals and observe and partake in clinical examinations. We were mainly acquainted with the Clinical Health Nurse Vicki, Doctor Annabelle Nones and had opportunities to meet health counsellors, Aboriginal health workers and almost everyone involved in running the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

From the time we have spent here this week, we have been given the invaluable opportunity of observing how health professionals communicate and establish a rapport with their patients. During consultations and meetings, we were also exposed to the mosaic nature of health complications that present. From this, we were taught the importance of being educated regarding the disparities present within Aboriginal communities in order to effectively eradicate them.

We found it very interesting to be able to speak with many of the staff and people who come in to use services, about different aspects of health for Tasmanian Aboriginal people. It was useful for us to be able to hear their views on health issues as well as areas in which they thought the TAC were doing well, or could improve.

It is important for us, as future doctors, to be able to better understand the lives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. This experience has left us with a lasting impression of the TAC, and will undoubtedly shape the doctors we become in the future. We would like to thank everyone who has given up their time to mentor us, show us around or simply stop and have a chat with us. We are appreciative for the many opportunities presented to us in our week's placement



Left to right: Michael, Taylor, Sophie and Urna